

Warren Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2011

Present: Jane Harrison, Helen Hawkinson, Kurt Jamiel, Bob Rutkiewicz, Diane Warren and David Weed

Absent: Butch Lombardi

Chair: Kurt Jamiel

Next Meeting: January 23, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Kurt Jamiel.

Mike Gerhart, who lives in Bagy Wrinkle Cove and serves as an observer of ospreys for the Audubon Society, noticed that the osprey platform at the end of their walkway has never been occupied. After speaking with people at the Land Trust, he decided to make a project of installing a new platform on their land in Warren. He stated that he wanted to keep the Commission in the loop and perhaps ask for help. He has also contacted Wendy Ferguson at Save the Bay who said she'd like to be helpful. He met with Doug Mattern who has an interesting design that doesn't require an auger, by putting in 6 x 6 plank, then use two 2x6 structures to make a structure that does minimal damage to the salt marsh. He doesn't want to be the only one making the decisions as to where it should be located. Jane suggested that there is someone at DEM who knows about osprey, and Diane suggested talking with Kevin O'Malley from the DEM, who may know something about it. Butch Lombardi could also be of assistance. Jane will email Butch and Mike.

Mike is also interested in getting the housing owners on the east side of the bike path to reduce pollution from the nitrates. Wenly Ferguson will have a chance to talk to them on Thursday the 5th at 7:00 p.m. Bagy Wrinkle Cove clubhouse. Some people have changed their habits after seeing the “drains to the river” markers.

A motion was made by Jane to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting as amended, seconded by Bob, and approved unanimously.

Budget report – Helen reported that nothing is new with the budget.

Administration – The 2012 calendar has been sent to the Town Clerk along with the attendance report.

Correspondence –

The FEMA risk mapping meeting was held on December in Warwick

The RI Association of Conservation Commissions is looking for people to give presentations at their meeting on March 26th, 2012.

They are trying to get active again. Following discussion, it was determined that we are unable to submit this year but will ask that they keep us informed.

Old Business:

1. Beautification:

Rt. 114 entrance to Town - Helen reports that she goes by the sign every day. The day after Halloween everything was perfect. The day after, every chrysanthemum was gone. They were dug out. She called

John Massed who said he knew nothing, but he speculated that it could have been someone from the bike path and said he would try to find out. Helen offered to write a letter to the editor of the Warren Times about what happened. Bob moved that she do this, Jane seconded, all voted in favor.

Memorial Tree at Town Beach – The sign is still not there. Dave talked to John Massed to remind him.

Fatima Drive Park – Bob recused himself. The group talked about putting small sign in front of the park. Jane suggested that we wait until the spring.

Company Street Waterfront Overlook – Kurt described a RI DEM trail meeting tomorrow that will cover this. Kurt will attend with Cynthia Henley from the neighborhood. This is an opportunity for review and input on the final plan. Kurt will ask about the additional four feet that will be taken from the road. This will allow for the planters being installed. The grant will cover planters, benches and stairs to the water. The grant was approved. Caroline suggested that we go ahead and let her know what she should purchase. He will get Company Street resident Cynthia Henley and Tony Guido together to finalize the plan. Have to include the stairs with DEM and CRMC. Kurt will follow up.

2. Storm water basins - Bob needs to email Caroline for the topo

maps.

4. Palmer River conservation easement – Tabled

5. Plat 13C lot 560 rezoning request from R10 to B –

560 is the street address, the lot is 157. This item has been postponed until the December Town Council meeting. This issue will be taken up at the Town Council meeting

5. Old Warren Marina

We received a copy of the cease and desist order from the Coastal Resources Management. This was also followed up with the Town Council.

6. Libby Lane

CRMC has cited the property owner and this has been taken to court.

7. Town Code Conservation Areas

Definition of passive recreation sites, such as Baker St, Fatima, Company Street and Patterson, were not on the list. Jane emailed Dave Frerich and Tony Desisto. We had made comments prior to the amendments on June 8, 2010. Not one of our six comments from May

4 were incorporated. We need clarification of the definition of passive and active recreation areas so we can request enforcement. Jane emailed Dave Frerich and Tony to ask if he has put it on the agenda.

New Business

None

Commissioners' Concerns:

Kurt expressed concern with Christmas tree disposal after the holidays.

Bob moved and Jane seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Weed, Secretary